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Spring 2003

# LawNotes, The St. Mary's University School of Law Newsletter

St. Mary's University School of Law

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# LawNotes

## PERIODICALS

The St. Mary's University School of Law Newsletter

Spring 2003



Retiring Chief Justice Phil Hardberger and Justice Catherine Stone (J.D. '82), administer the oath of office to incoming Chief Justice Alma Lopez (J.D. '68, B.B.A. '65) in the Moot Courtroom at St. Mary's University School of Law.

## Alma Lopez Sworn in as 4th Court's Chief Justice

Many graduates of St. Mary's University School of Law have won election to judicial and legislative posts locally and around the country, but the school has never hosted the swearing in ceremony for an alumna elected chief justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals.

Until now.

Alma Lopez (J.D. '68, B.B.A. '65), the first Hispanic woman to take over as chief justice on the Fourth Court, was sworn in in front of an overflowing crowd of family, friends and supporters in the Moot Courtroom on Jan. 3.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Law Alumni Room of Sarita Kenedy East Law Library honoring the nearly 20 law school grads who were elected or re-elected to Bexar County judicial posts in the November elections.

Before she was appointed to the court in

1993 by then-Gov. Ann Richards, Lopez practiced primarily family and international law for 25 years. She won election to that post in 1994. Retiring Chief Justice Phil Hardberger and Justice Catherine Stone (J.D. '82) administered the oath of office.

Additionally, Lopez will be honored this year during the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Dinner. Mark your calendars to join her and other alumni in recognizing their achievements Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 37 N.E. Loop 410. Cost is \$50 per person and corporate tables of 10 are available for \$1,000.

Call the St. Mary's University Alumni Relations Office at 436-3324 for reservations. ■

*(See page 3 for a list of St. Mary's alumni elected to judicial or legislative posts in November.)*

## Mock Trial Team Wins Regionals, Lone Star Classic

A team of third-year law students at St. Mary's University School of Law won the regional tournament of the National Mock Trial Competition, sending them to the national tournament in Houston this March.

The American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers Association sponsored the tournament at Baylor Law School held Feb 13-16.

St. Mary's students Andie Champagne, Austin Poda and Craig Saucier, who previously (along with third-year law student Leslie Massengale) won the Lone Star Classic Mock Trial competition in San Antonio, defeated a team from Baylor to claim victory in the competition.

Practicing trial lawyers and sitting judges from Dallas, Austin and Central Texas judged the competition in which more than 80 students from 10 law schools in Texas and Louisiana participated.



Champions of Lone Star Classic (from left, front row) Craig Saucier, Leslie Massengale, Andie Champagne and Austin Poda; (back row) coaches Melanie Hessler, Martin Phipps and Bill Squires.

"This accomplishment in mock trial, on the heels of our mock trial victory here in San Antonio at our invitational tournament last fall, and on the heels of the national and state championships last year in moot

**Continued on page 8 ►**



## Message from the Dean



School of Law Dean Bill Piatt, his daughter, Alicia, and wife, Rosanne (far right), visit with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia and his wife, Maureen, during the St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria, last summer. U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist is scheduled to be the Distinguished Visiting Jurist at this year's summer program July 7-Aug. '8.

The faculty at St. Mary's University School of Law, I am very pleased to report, adopted a new "core curriculum" on Jan. 27, 2003. The new curriculum, which goes into effect at the conclusion of this academic year, is another important step to improve the bar passage rate at the School of Law.

Currently, our first year curriculum consists entirely of bar courses. Now, under the new scheme, students will be required to take a minimum of nine additional bar courses prior to graduation. I will continue to urge students, however, to take as many bar courses as is feasible.

This curriculum passed on a vote of 29 in favor, none opposed and two abstentions. I am particularly pleased that the faculty was able to come together to overwhelmingly approve it. In addition to its value regarding the bar exam, the new curriculum reflects a strong commitment to providing the educational background our students need in order to

become ethical, competent practitioners.

On another very positive note, applications to the law school continue to pour in. Last year we experienced a 35 percent increase in the applicant pool over the previous year, and we are currently 35 percent ahead of last year's pace. This increased applicant pool enables us to be much more selective in our admissions. A better-qualified student body is obviously another important step toward improving our bar passage rate.

Throughout this edition of LawNotes we are pleased to share with you many other successes at St. Mary's University School of Law.

We are grateful to Marty Beirne (J.D. '69) and his partners at Beirne, Maynard & Parsons L.L.P. in Houston for the generous \$100,000 endowment for the St. Mary's Law Journal. The proceeds from the endowment will be used to promote the Journal's Symposium on Legal Malpractice and Professional Responsibility. Beirne is a founding editor of the St. Mary's Law Journal.

We also thank the San Antonio Bar Association and its President Van Hilley for their support of the Hippo F. Garcia Scholarship. Those efforts, coupled with the generosity of the Law Alumni Association, have raised the endowment of that scholarship to \$100,000.

I have enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with groups of alumni this year. Most recently, we gathered with alumni in St. Louis, Brownsville, El Paso and Austin. On every occasion our alumni offer assistance in recruiting, placing and otherwise aiding our students and their efforts. Indeed, the support of the Law Alumni Association was a prime motivator in our faculty decision to enhance the curriculum.

We are seeing the dawning of a new day at St. Mary's University School of Law. The alumni are giving back to the school the leadership and guidance we need. This will undoubtedly be looked back upon as the key step in reinforcing the pride at St. Mary's University School of Law. Thank you for all your support, and I look forward to visiting with you at Homecoming on April 11, 2003. ■



## Torbert, Oxford Recognized with Belva Lockwood Awards

Alumae Jill Torbert and Teresa Oxford are the winners of the 2002 Belva Lockwood awards given by the San Antonio Women's Bar Foundation to recognize women lawyers who have made outstanding contributions to the community, women in general and the status of women in the legal profession.

Torbert (J.D. '87), an assistant district attorney, received the 2002 Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award, and Oxford (J.D. '97), associate counsel at U.S. Global Investors Inc., was the 2002 Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recipient.

Currently assigned to the Bexar County Gang Injunction Unit of the District Attorney's office, Torbert clerked for U.S. District Judge Emilio Garza and spent a number of years as a consumer law advocate.

Oxford spent a number of years in the securities business before earning her law degree from St. Mary's. She spent several years as a solo practitioner and criminal prosecutor before joining U.S. Global.

The first Belva Lockwood awards were presented in 1985 by the Bexar County Women's Bar Association. It is named for the first woman admitted to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court.

### Previous alumni recipients of the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award

Sue M. Hall (J.D. '75)  
Jane E. Bockus (J.D. '79)  
Margaret Maisel (J.D. '71)  
Mary Brennan Stich (J.D. '81)  
Nancy J. Anderson (J.D. '77)  
Barbara Hanson Nelleremoe (J.D. '83)  
Diann Bartek (J.D. '78)

### Previous alumni recipients of the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

Lisa Wortham (J.D. '85)  
Sue Bentch (J.D. '87)  
Jane Dingivan (J.D. '86)  
Dayla Sari Pepi (J.D. '98)  
Angela M. Sanchez (J.D. '87)



**Jill Torbert (J.D. '87)  
and Teresa Oxford (J.D. '97)**

## St. Mary's alumni who were elected or re-elected to U.S., Texas and Bexar County posts in November

John Cornyn (J.D. '77) - U.S. Senator  
Charles A. Gonzalez (J.D. '72) - U.S. Representative  
Carlos Uresti (J.D. '92, B.A. '85) - State Representative  
Santee Bryan Marion (J.D. '80) - Justice, 4th Court of Appeals  
Barbara Hanson Nelleremoe (J.D. '83) - District Judge, 45th Judicial District  
Mark R. Luitjen (J.D. '80) - District Judge, 144th Judicial District  
Raymond Angelini (J.D. '79) - District Judge, 187th Judicial District  
John J. Specia (J.D. '75) - District Judge, 225th Judicial District  
Sid Harle (J.D. '80) - District Judge, 226th Judicial District  
Phillip A. Kazen Jr. (J.D. '80) - District Judge, 227th Judicial District  
Michael P. Peden (J.D. '75) - District Judge, 285th Judicial District  
Nelson W. Wolff (J.D. '66) - County Judge  
Al Alonso (J.D. '68) - Judge, County Court at Law, No. 1  
David J. Rodriguez (J.D. '84) - Judge, County Court at Law, No. 3  
Sarah E. Garrahan (J.D. '81) - Judge, County Court at Law, No. 4



**A number of judges attended the swearing-in ceremony for Fourth Court of Appeals Chief Justice Alma Lopez. They got together in their robes for a photo. Shown are: (back row, left to right) John Specia, Santee Bryan Marion, Mark Luitjen, Irene Rios, Alma Lopez, Mark Green, Catherine Stone, Karen Angelini, Ray Angelini; (middle row) Andy Mireles and Barbara Hervey; (front row) Elma Ender, Barbara Hanson Nelleremoe, Tom Rickhoff, David Rodriguez, Polly Jackson Spencer, Donna Rayes and Mary Roman.**

Timothy F. Johnson (J.D. '78) - Judge, County Court at Law, No. 5  
Karen Crouch (J.D. '86) - Judge, County Court at Law, No. 8  
Irene Rios (J.D. '90) - Judge, County Court at Law, No. 10  
Polly Jackson Spencer (J.D. '76) - Judge, County Probate Court, No. 1  
Tom Rickhoff (J.D. '69) - Judge, County Probate Court, No. 2  
William E. Donovan (J.D. '72) - Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Place 2



# San Antonio Lawyer

January - February 2003



## President's Message

### St. Mary's Commitment to Excellence

By Van Hilley

**O**n November 12, 2002 the San Antonio Express-News published an editorial critical of the bar passage rates for graduates of St. Mary's University School of Law. I did not attend St. Mary's nor am I a St. Mary's apologist, but in my opinion St. Mary's Dean Piatt is turning things around and moving St. Mary's in the right direction. Dean Piatt inherited a law school in crisis and making changes at an education institution is a difficult job and takes time.

The former administration at St. Mary's made no attempt to cooperate with the local Bar or use the resources of the San Antonio Bar Association to better prepare St. Mary's students for the practice of law. From my very first meeting with Dean Piatt it has been his goal, as well as that of the San Antonio Bar Association, to work together in every way possible to establish methods and practical plans to better equip St. Mary's law students for the future. The Dean and San Antonio Bar Association are committed to maintaining the excellent relationship that the law school and Bar now enjoy.

St. Mary's has a well-deserved reputation for excellence. The school has provided leadership in the legal community in San Antonio and South Texas through-

out its 75-year history. Our firm has regularly employed St. Mary's law students, who are clearly the equal of students hired from other law schools in this State.

The bar passage rate is, as we all acknowledge, a continuing matter of concern. The problem, however, is being vigorously addressed by St. Mary's with the help and support of the law school's alumni association and the bench and bar in San Antonio. The root causes of the problem, including a dwindling application pool at St. Mary's in the 90's, coupled with a relaxation of academic standards there during the same time period, are now being successfully addressed. The applicant pool and the resulting entering qualifications of the first year class are now up. Dean Piatt and the faculty have been gradually tightening academic standards and expect to implement additional reforms.

Let's not overlook the tremendous accomplishments of this institution. Last year the law school produced students who, for the first time in St. Mary's history, won the American Bar Association National Moot Court Championship. It followed up that success by winning the Texas Young Lawyers Association Moot Court Championship at the State Bar meeting in June 2002.

Just recently, the law school won the Lone Star Classic National Invitation Mock Trial Tournament held here in San Antonio. For nine of the last eleven years, Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States have served as the guest lecturers at the law school's Innsbruck program. In 2003, Chief Justice William Rhenquist returns for his fourth such visit. Development efforts at the law school, including the funding by the local Bar of the Hippo Garcia Scholarship, have brought in over 2.5 million dollars in the last four years. For the past three years, Hispanic Business Magazine has listed St. Mary's as one its top ten law schools in the nation.

It is extremely short sighted to attack an institution like St. Mary's for publicity purposes. Law school should teach students to think like lawyers, and not teach how to just pass an exam. The San Antonio Bar Association helped create what is now St. Mary's University School of Law. Now is the time for us to reaffirm our support for that fine institution.✶

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*Van Hilley has a general practice that focuses on family and criminal matters with the firm of Goldstein, Goldstein & Hilley.*



## Recent Faculty Publications

Faculty publications during calendar year 2002 – in addition to magazine articles, book supplements, case summaries, continuing legal education pieces, locally published classroom materials, tributes, prefaces, and short book reviews – included:

### Jeffrey F. Addicott

"Legal and Policy Implications for a New Era: The War on Terrorism," 4 The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues 209 (2002).

"Winning the War on Terror Legal and Policy Lessons from the Past" (Lawyers and Judges Publishing Co. Inc.).

### Michael S. Ariens

"Religious Liberty in a Pluralistic Society" (Carolina Academic Press) (2nd ed. 2002) (with Robert Destro).

"Forms of Legal Practice," "Sole Practitioners," and "Paralegal and Legal Secretary," in The Oxford Companion to American Law (Oxford University Press) (2002).

### Gerry W. Beyer

"Wills, Trusts, and Estates - Examples and Explanations" (Aspen Law and Business) (2nd ed. 2002).  
9 & 10 Texas Law of Wills (West Group) (3rd ed. 2002).

### Charles E. Cantu

"Observations on the Evolution of Minorities in the Law: From Law School to Practice," 4 The Scholar: St. Mary's University Law Review on Minority Issues 101 (2002).  
"A Short Essay on the Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress in Texas: Stop Saying It Does Not Exist," 33 St. Mary's Law Journal 101 (2002).

### Richard E. Flint and L. Wayne Scott

"Texas Civil Procedure: PreTrial" (Imprimatur Press) (2002).  
"Texas Civil Procedure: Trial & Appeal" (Imprimatur Press) (2002).

### Vincent R. Johnson

"The Ethical Foundations of American Judicial Independence," 29 Fordham Urban Law Review 1007-28 (2002).

### Bill Piatt

"One View to Add to the Many," 34 U. Toledo L. Rev. 143 (2002).

### Rosanne Piatt

"Texas Family Law: Outline and Cases" (2002).

### Gerald S. Reamey

"Texas Criminal Procedure" (Academia Press) (6th ed. 2002) (co-authored).

### Bernard S. Reams Jr.

"The Law of E-SIGN: A Legislative History of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act," Public Law 106-229 (2000) (William S. Hein & Co.: Buffalo, 2002).

"USA Patriot Act: A Legislative History of the Uniting and Strengthening of America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act," Public Law 107-56 (2001) (William S. Hein & Co.: Buffalo) (2002).

### David A. Schlueter

"Texas Rules of Evidence Manual" (with Wendorf and Barton) (6th ed. 2002).

### John M. Schmolesky

"Texas Criminal Practice Guide" (Matthew Bender), chapters on "Witnesses" and "New Trial and Arrest of Judgment" (2002).

## Celebrating Red Mass in San Antonio, St. Louis



St. Mary's University President Charles L. Cottrell, Ph.D. (B.A. '62, M.A. '64), and District Judge John Speria (J.D. '75), visit prior to the procession to San Fernando Cathedral for the 50th Annual Red Mass in San Antonio. Red Mass is an annual event sponsored by St. Mary's University School of Law and the Catholic Lawyers Guild where faculty, staff and students, and the San Antonio legal community gather to mark the beginning of the legal and academic year each fall.



Many law school alumni attended the Red Mass at the St. Louis Cathedral including: James F. Shrawsburg (J.D. '82), Alumnus; President of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen; Robert G. Dowd (J.D. '77), Missouri Court of Appeals Judge; Mary Patricia Schroeder (J.D. '78), Associate Circuit Judge; Peter Kinder (J.D. '79), Missouri State President; Pro Tem; and James Dowd (J.D. '77), Missouri Court of Appeals Judge.



# St. Mary's Law Journal Ranks in Top 10 of Most Cited American Legal Periodicals

The St. Mary's Law Journal ranks in the top 10 American legal periodicals most frequently cited by state and federal court cases over the past seven years, according to a survey taken by Washington and Lee University.

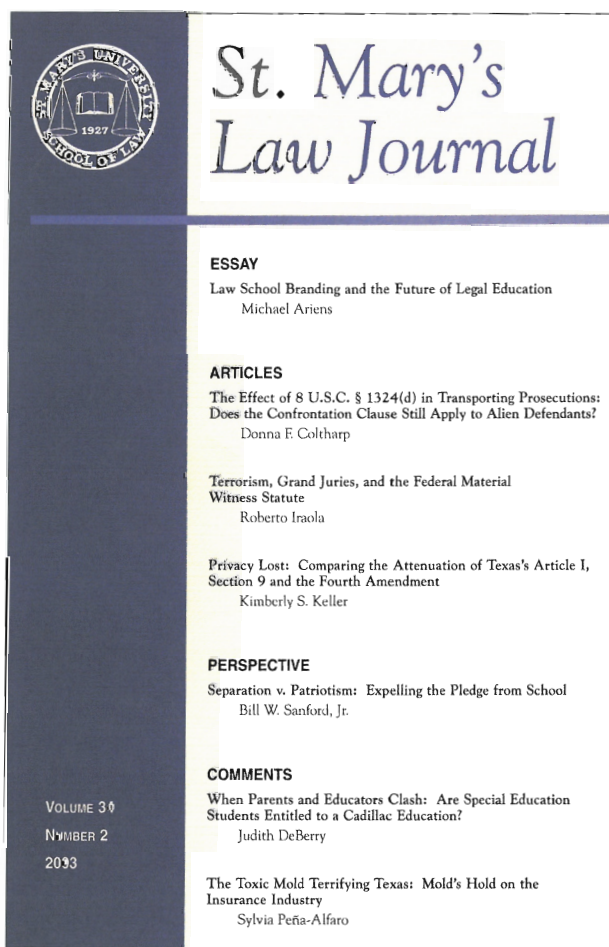
The survey, which was conducted for the first time late last year, encompassed the years 1995-2002 and found that the St. Mary's Law Journal, published by the St. Mary's University School of Law, was cited by courts 128 times, placing it 10th on the list of 156 legal periodicals. That was the second highest position of journal citations from Texas law schools, placing just below the Texas Law Review of the University of Texas School of Law.

Of the 128 citations, according to the survey, the journal was cited 112 times in state court cases and 16 in federal cases. While the St. Mary's Law Journal was most frequently cited by Texas tribunals, during the years surveyed it was also cited by courts in Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin, as well as by courts in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Established in 1969, the St. Mary's Law Journal (<http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/index.php?menu=program&page=lawjournal.php>), is edited by law students and issued four times each year. It includes articles written by lawyers, judges and law professors, as well as comments by students.

"The results of this survey indicate that articles in the Law Journal are thoroughly researched and well written, and provide valuable guidance to courts," said Vincent R. Johnson, associate dean of St. Mary's University School of Law and chairman of the journal's faculty advisory committee. "Many leaders of the legal profession have written for the periodical, including the Chief Justice of the United States, William H. Rehnquist. Our editors and writers have done an outstanding job over the years."

The survey ranked the top 10 most-cited American



legal periodicals as: Harvard Law Review, Columbia Law Review, Yale Law Journal, Michigan Law Review, New York University Law Review, Georgetown Law Journal, University of Chicago Law Review, Texas Law Review, Vanderbilt Law Review and St. Mary's Law Journal.

A previous survey published in the Texas Bar Journal in the early 1990s revealed that during a 20-year-period, state and federal appellate courts more frequently cited the St. Mary's Law Journal than any other law review published by a law school in Texas.

The journal has won the Texas Bar Foundation's Outstanding Article Award on several occasions. Recently, articles published in the St. Mary's Law Journal have received attention in national media, including the Wall Street Journal. ■

## Homecoming CLEs Back by Demand

The success of last year's continuing legal education classes prompts us to once again offer a slate of courses during this year's Homecoming celebration.

The courses will be held Friday April 11, from 9:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., in the Law Classroom Building at St. Mary's University School of Law.

This year we are offering five hours of free CLE credit, including one hour of ethics credit.

A variety of St. Mary's University School of Law professors will present classes on a number of topics including: bankruptcy, equal protection, environmental law, client relations, prosecuting terrorists, morals, arrest and search warrants, and others.

The Alumni Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center will feature a portrait unveiling of former law professor, the late Carlos Cadena, and the recognition of faculty members celebrating milestone anniversaries.

Following the afternoon sessions, join us for the Dean's Homecoming Reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.

Additionally, alumni of classes graduating in years ending in three and eight are invited to join former law school classmates for special reunions on the law school campus.

For more information or to register, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 431-3778. ■



## Scott Receives Faculty Appreciation Award

L. Wayne Scott was one of six faculty members honored by the St. Mary's University Alumni Association for their dedication to students, the University and their surrounding communities. Scott, certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in civil appellate, civil trial and personal injury law, is a frequent lecturer and writer on civil trial and appellate procedure.

He joined the law faculty in 1971 and has directed the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program since 1999. Upon graduation from the University of Texas School of Law in 1962, Scott served as a briefing attorney to the Court of Criminal Appeals, and then to the Texas Supreme Court. In addition he was in private practice in Waco and was a lecturer in law at Baylor University. ■



**Professor L. Wayne Scott**

## Bioterrorism Symposium Sets Up Dialogue

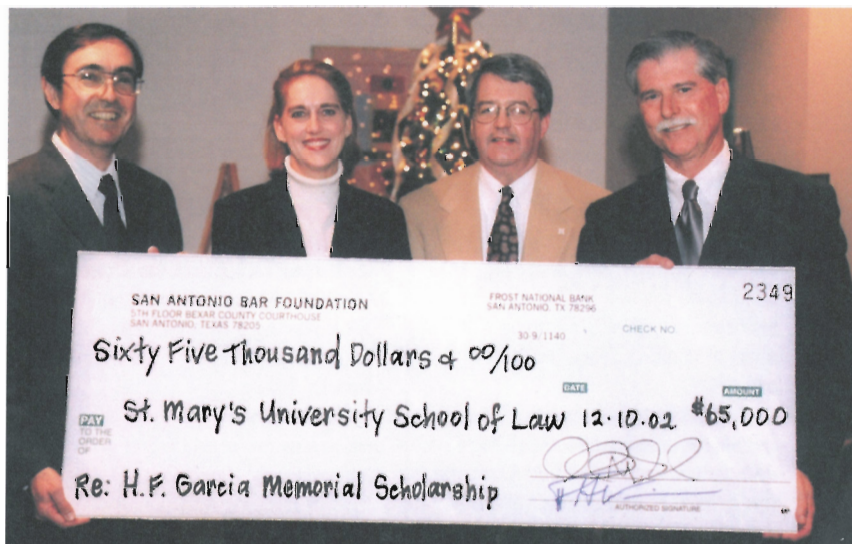
Many people assume that a massive public health emergency, such as a bioterrorist attack, would result in martial law and the suspension of civil liberties. If this assumption is not examined, it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

That is the premise behind a symposium sponsored by St. Mary's University School of Law in conjunction with and supported by the Development Center for Operational Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base; the Texas Center for Medical Strategy, Training and Readiness; the University of Texas Health Science Center; Texas Tech University and others on April 28-29 at the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center.

U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona, will give the keynote speech. Other presenters – attorneys, health care providers and military personnel – will address topics such as the balance between civil liberties and public safety; quarantine and compulsory medical screening and treatment; seizure of property; environmental issues; liability and indemnification; and the role of the military in a large-scale domestic response.

Attorneys can receive up to 15 hours of Continuing Legal Education credits and one hour of ethics credit.

For more information or to register, call (210) 536-1576 or visit the web site at <http://star.law.briefs.af.mil/dc.nutrition/index.html>. ■



### H.F. "Hippo" Garcia Scholarship Fund Reaches \$100,000

Proceeds from San Antonio Bar Association President Van Hilley's (right) installation dinner were donated to the H.F. "Hippo" Garcia Memorial Scholarship fund at St. Mary's University School of Law. Accepting the ceremonial check on behalf of the school are: (from left) Bill Platt, dean; Karen Angelini, president of the Law Alumni Association; and David P. Manuel, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs. Contributions from Garcia's family, the alumni association and individuals have brought the endowed fund to \$100,000.

## Creating E-mail Database

In an effort to expand communication methods with alumni, the School of Law is compiling a database of e-mail addresses. This database will improve our ability to inform you of alumni activities such as free CLE clinics, class reunions, major legal education events involving St. Mary's, and other important announcements regarding your fellow alumni, activities at the school, improving the networking database for legal services and job opportunities.

Send your e-mail address to Al Hartman, director of Law Alumni and Development, at [ahartman@stmarytx.edu](mailto:ahartman@stmarytx.edu), or Annette Wilson, director of Career Services, at [awilson@stmarytx.edu](mailto:awilson@stmarytx.edu). ■

## Robert Valdez Nominated for Presidency of State Bar

San Antonio attorney Robert E. Valdez (J.D. '80, B.A. '76), is one of two president-elect candidates nominated by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

Valdez is a name partner in the San Antonio law firm Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans, P.C. He has been involved in the civil trial practice since 1987, previously as a solo practitioner. He is board certified in personal injury trial law. Valdez currently serves as chair of the Texas Board of Law Examiners and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the State Bar College. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Bar Association and has been appointed special counsel for the prosecution in cases of the Judicial Conduct Commission.

Lawyers from throughout the state will vote during a two-week election period beginning April 15. The lawyer chosen as president-elect 2003-04 will serve as president of the State Bar of Texas from June 2004 to May 2005. ■



► continued from page 1

court competitions, proves that we are among the best in the country," said Bill Piatt, dean of the law school.

"Our region is considered the toughest in the country," added Martin Phipps, coach of the mock trial teams. "Since I've been involved we have gotten to the finals and semi-finals the last four years. However, we always came up just short of winning. Now, those days are over."

"Winning this tournament is a testament to our students' abilities and dedication," said Dave Schlueter, law professor and director of the Advocacy Programs at St. Mary's. "Martin Phipps and the students put in a lot of hard work and many hours preparing for this competition. We are extremely proud of them."

Some 200 teams from around the country attend regional competitions and only the top 16 teams are invited to participate in the national finals, Phipps said. That competition is scheduled for March 27-29 in Houston.

In the Lone Star Classic competition in November, the team beat students from seven law schools including the University of Texas at Austin in the semi-final round. Additionally, Poda was voted the best advocate of the Championship Round.

The team of Jessica Macklin, Scott Mechler, Sandrine Shelton and David Walton tied for third place. Macklin was crowned the second best advocate of the entire tournament.

Thirty-two teams from more than a dozen law schools in eight states entered the competition, held in civil courtrooms at the Bexar County Courthouse. They included the University of Texas; Baylor University; the College of William and Mary (of Williamsburg, Va.); the University of Houston; and Southern Methodist University.

Alums Melanie Hessler (J.D. '01) and Bill Squires (J.D. '01) served as assistant coaches. ■

## State Bar Recognizes Karla Jackson

Third-year law student Karla S. Jackson won the State Bar of Texas Labor and Employment Law Section Writing Competition for her article "Is Anything Ever Free?: NAFTA's Effect On Union Organizing Drives and Minorities, and the Potential of FTAA Having a Similar Effect" published in *The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues*.

Jackson's entry garnered her \$1,000 and a plaque was presented to her at a reception at attorney Frank Herrera's (J.D. '67, B.A. '64) office in January. Additionally, *The Scholar* received \$1,000.

"The committee was extremely impressed with your creative choice of topic, as well as the broad view you took, which integrated legal, political and economic issues," wrote Richard Levy with the Labor and Employment Law Section. "In addition, the analysis was very convincing and hard-hitting." ■



Frank Herrera (J.D. '67, B.A. '64), right, congratulates Karla Jackson on her winning article in *The Scholar* while Richard Levy, left, of the State Bar of Texas Labor and Employment Law Section looks on at a reception in Herrera's law offices.

## Two Receive Marianist Heritage Awards

St. Mary's University President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., presents Marianist Heritage and Student Leadership awards to Ileana C. Velazquez, criminal justice coordinator at the Center for Legal and Social Justice, and third-year law student John Gill during a Mass at the Guadalupe Chapel in January.

Velazquez, who joined St. Mary's in 1998, spent four years as a sergeant in the prison system. Usually the first contact with clients at the center, she helps create a welcoming atmosphere and implement ways to build a sense of community among faculty and staff. She has shown her dedication to helping to provide services to the poor and marginalized in our society.

Gill, who is also pursuing a joint master's degree in theology, is president of the St. Thomas More Society, which provides a weekly faith-sharing opportunity for interested law students. He is active in outreach programs through Law Campus Ministry and is a "regular" at Casa Maria Marianist Community, sharing his faith and life experiences with others. ■





# Class Notes

## 1960s

- **1960 Frank R. Southers, B.A., J.D.**, Horseshoe Bay, has been elected president of the Hill Country Higher Education Foundation, a provider of scholarships to Highland Lakes-area undergraduate and graduate students.
- **1965 Antonio R. "Tony" Sanchez, B.B.A., J.D. '69**, gubernatorial candidate and chairman and CEO of Sanchez Oil & Gas Corp. in Laredo, has been awarded the 2002 Henry B. Gonzalez Award by the San Antonio Hispanic Law Alumni Association.

## 1970s

- **1970 Morton L. Herman, J.D.**, is a partner with Cantey & Hanger LLP, in Fort Worth.
- **1973 David J. LaBrec, J.D.**, partner at Strasburger & Price, has been named to the Dallas Charter Review Commission, charged with analyzing the city's government structure and making recommendations to improve its efficiency. **Shelton E. Padgett, J.D.**, attorney with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, was honored as Southwest Texas State University's 2002 Distinguished Alumnus in October. He is former president of the school's alumni association.
- **1975 Margaret K. Hoffman, J.D.**, Austin, deputy director for legal services at the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission, has been named executive director of the 3,000-employee agency.
- **1978 Peter M. Carroll III, J.D.**, Riverside, Calif., has been appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, where he will serve a 14-year term as bankruptcy judge. **Rebecca A. Gregory, J.D.**, Plano, has been named Deputy U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, which comprises 43 counties. **N. Mark Ralls, J.D.**, has been named partner in the San Antonio law offices of Chaves, Gonzales & Hoblit LLP.

- **1979 C. Lee Elms, J.D.**, managing partner of the San Antonio law firm of Elms Harmon Macchia Miracle LLC, specializes in banking, commercial litigation, construction, general business and real estate. **Linda G. Moore, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, in Dallas.

## 1980s

- **1980 Mark G. Daniel, J.D.**, an attorney with Evans Gandy Daniel & Moore in Fort Worth, is president of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. **Robert E. Valdez, J.D., B.A. '76**, has joined the law firm of Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans PC, as a shareholder, and practices in their San Antonio office.
- **1981 John W. McChristian, J.D.**, is a partner in the law firm of Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans PC, and practices in their Dallas/Fort Worth office.
- **1982 Jeff H. Ray, J.D.**, is a partner in the law firm of Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans PC, and practices in their El Paso office.
- **1983 David M. Kennedy, J.D.**, owner of his own law firm in Sherman, has been elected chairman of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America-Nursing Home Litigation Group. **Terry E. Mitchell, J.D.**, is vice president of Milburn Homes in Austin.
- **1986 Lonnie J. Copps, J.D.**, has joined First National Bank of Springdale, Ark., as vice president and trust officer. **Dallari Landry, J.D.**, a criminal defense and family law mediation attorney in San Marcos, has had her first novel, "The Bayou Privilege," published. **David W. Waddell, J.D.**, is a partner with the law firm of Seyfarth Shaw, in Houston.
- **1988 Kimberly Klein Cauthorn, J.D.**, is a senior vice president and intellectual property risk management consultant for Marsh USA Inc., in Houston. **John P. Palmer, J.D.**, attorney with the Waco law firm Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee PC, has been named president of the Texas Association of Mediators, and honored as a Fellow of the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the University of Texas School of Law.

- **1989 Stephanie A. Macchia, J.D.**, is a partner in the San Antonio law firm of Elms Harmon Macchia Miracle LLC.

## 1990s

- **1991 Cathy P. Clark, J.D.**, Corpus Christi, is assistant attorney general in the Child Support Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. **Lynne (Biornstad) Rada, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with the San Antonio law offices of Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans PC.
- **1992 Craig S. Comeaux, J.D.**, has been promoted to senior vice president and general counsel at Seitel Inc., a seismic data licensing company in Houston. **State Representative Carlos Uresti, J.D., B.A. '85**, is a partner in the San Antonio law offices of Chaves, Gonzales & Hoblit LLP. **Paige Wilbur, J.D.**, is vice president and regional trust manager for Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco, Calif.
- **1994 Rogelio Lopez Jr., J.D.**, has opened the San Antonio law firm of Lopez & Ortiz LLP. **R. Blake Zuber, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with the law firm of Plunkett & Gibson Inc., in San Antonio.
- **1995 Yvonne M. Acosta, J.D.**, is an attorney with the law firm of Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans PC, in their El Paso offices. **J. Roger Gonzalez, J.D., B.A. '91**, has joined bilingual newspaper *La Prensa* of San Antonio as its editor. **Jon Todd Koenig, J.D.**, is assistant vice president and trust officer at Merrill Lynch Trust Co. FSB, in Houston. **Nancy L. LaCourse Mangan, J.D.**, is director of client relations and shareholder at Cox & Smith Inc., in San Antonio. **Trent B. Miracle, J.D.**, is a partner in the San Antonio law firm of Elms Harmon Macchia Miracle LLC. **Tony Patti, J.D.**, is lead counsel at Allstate Insurance Co., in Cranford, N.J.
- **1996 Claudia G. Arrieta, J.D., B.A., '92**, is an associate attorney with the San Antonio law firm of Thornton, Summers, Biechlin, Dunham & Brown.
- **1997 Edward W. Alfred, J.D.**, is litigation counsel at Valero Energy Corp., in San Antonio. **Derrick D. Cornejo, J.D.**, is managing partner of a criminal law practice firm in Denver, Colo. **Karin R. Crump, J.D.**, who has her own law firm in Dallas,



was selected as the 2001-2002 Outstanding Young Lawyer of Dallas and named one of the "Best Lawyers Under 40" by D magazine. **Jon K. Daubert, J.D.**, is vice president of private trust services at Frost National Bank in San Antonio. **Teresa Weaver Evans, J.D.**, serves as municipal judge for the cities of Mansfield and Kennedale. **Michael A. Gershon, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with Lloyd, Gosselink, Blevins, Rochelle, Baldwin & Townsend PC, in Austin. **Ruth Lozano McChesney, J.D.**, is a partner in the law firm of Joseph B. De Mott & Associates LLP, in San Antonio. **Paul T. Wendland III, J.D., B.A. '92**, is an assistant city attorney for San Antonio.

■ **1998 Aric J. Garza, J.D., B.A. '89**, has opened a law practice in San Antonio, focusing on real estate, corporate law and nonprofit corporations. **Dayla S. Pepi, J.D.**, San Antonio, clinical fellow and supervising attorney at the Battered Immigrant Civil Legal Assistance Project, has been invited to join the Texas Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Fairness. **Roberto Sanchez, J.D.**, is an attorney with the law firm of Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans PC, in their El Paso offices. **Raquel Tamez, J.D.**, is in-house counsel with Mary Kay Inc., in Dallas, responsible for international relations and domestic litigation.

■ **1999 Euren S. Ezzell, J.D.**, board certified in juvenile law, has opened a private law practice in Austin.

## 2000s

■ **2000 Andrew Borrego, J.D.**, is a partner in the San Antonio law firm of Castro, Borrego & Castro Inc. **Linda W. Browning, J.D.**, is an attorney in the San Antonio law offices of Cox & Smith Inc. **Miguel A. Ortiz, J.D., M.Acc.**, is a partner in the San Antonio law firm of Lopez & Ortiz LLP. **Eliseo R. Rico III, J.D., B.A. '94**, is an attorney with The McCormick Firm PLLC, in San Antonio. **Steven D. Sanfelippo, J.D.**, has joined the San Antonio law offices of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, in their litigation department.

■ **2001 Maria E. (Garcia) Gutierrez, J.D., B.A. '97**, is an attorney with the law firm of Ray, Valdez, McChristian & Jeans PC, in their San Antonio offices. **Michelle R. Hollman, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with the Corpus Christi law offices of Chaves, Gonzales & Hoblit. **Jeffrey A. Massey, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with the San Antonio law firm of Elms Harmon Macchia & Miracle LLC. **Sylvia K. Rhee, J.D.**, has joined the Fort Worth law firm of

Cantey & Hanger as an associate. **Diana Y. Vega, J.D., B.A. '98**, is attorney/staff counsel for the Allstate Insurance Co., in Dallas. **Norma N. Vielma, J.D.**, of Laredo, is an attorney with the Webb County District Attorney's Office. **Hargid Christopher Waller, J.D.**, is staff attorney with the Texas Department of Public Safety Legal Service in Corpus Christi.

■ **2002 Jason S. Bashara, J.D.**, is an associate attorney with Plunkett & Gibson Inc., in San Antonio.

## Marriages

**John S. Nelson, J.D. '90**, to Ashley Brook Chase, Sept. 21, 2002.

**Bradford E. Bullock, J.D. '95, B.A. '92**, to Catherine Mattijetz, March 13, 2002; **Brandon T. Ellis, J.D. '95**, to Leigh Taylor Gaut, Aug. 17, 2002; **Nancy L. LaCourse, J.D. '95**, to John Mangan, June 23, 2001; **Tony Patti, J.D. '95**, to Pauline Novello, June 30, 2002.

**Valerie R. Vance, J.D. '96**, to Scott Locher, Aug. 25, 2001.

**Catherine N. Hoyle, J.D. '97**, to Anthony Palin, Sept. 28, 2001; **Karen Lee Johnson, J.D. '97, B.A. '93**, to David Steves Zachry, May 4, 2002.

**Marina Chavez, J.D. '98**, to Martin Soto, Sept. 9, 2001; **Nadira Khan, J.D. '98**, to Eric A. Wood, July 13, 2002.

**Adriana Benavides, J.D., M.B.A. '99, B.B.A. '94**, to Edward F. Maddox, J.D. '99, May 18, 2002; **Luz Elena de la Garza, J.D., '99, B.A. '95**, to Miguel J. Chapa, J.D. '99, Aug. 10, 2002.

**Andrew R. Borrego, J.D. '00**, to Patricia Longoria, March 9, 2002.

## Births

Hill Hudson to Waverly and **William A. Gage Jr., J.D. '88**, June 25, 2002.

John Ashton Foster to **Stephanie A. Foster, J.D. '91**, and Richard Gilbert, March 9, 2002.

Riley Chrystine to Kelly Franklin Bagnall and **James P. "Jamie" Bagnall, J.D. '92**, Jan. 22, 2001.

Thomas Henry to **Carla (Cunningham) Brennan, B.B.A. '94**, and **Donald Brennan, J.D. '93, B.B.A. '90**, July 1, 2002; Theresa Eleanna to **Gloria (Ayala) Mayorga, B.A. '95**, and **Daniel C. Mayorga, J.D. '93, B.A. '90**, April 7,

2002; Emma Elise to Kristia and **C. Jeffery Mulliner, J.D., '93**, Jan. 15, 2002.

Christopher Mitchell Jr. to Jill and **Christopher M. Crain, J.D. '94, B.B.A. '91**, Jan. 17, 2002; Connor Michael to **Leslie (Orton) Haby, J.D. '94**, and **Mark Haby, J.D. '95, B.A. '91**, April 15, 2002.

Ainsley Caldwell and Annabel Dooley to **Christine (Allen) Merritt, J.D. '95**, and **Christopher Merritt, J.D. '96**, Dec. 19, 2001.

Emily, born Feb. 11, 2001, and adopted by **Teresa Weaver Evans, J.D. '97**, and Joe Evans, in August 2001.

Carlos Martin to **Marina Chavez-Soto, J.D. '98**, and Martin Soto, Dec. 20, 2001.

Luis Enrique to **Julie (Gonzalez) Peña, B.B.A. '95**, and **Enrique Peña, J.D. '99**, Feb. 19, 2002.

## In Memoriam

**James L. Gulley, J.D. '38**, died July 12, 2002.

**Gerald C. Henckel, J.D. '49**, died July 11, 2002.

**Charles W. Grace, J.D. '50, B.A. '41**, died Aug. 5, 2002;

**Edward W. Penshorn, J.D. '50**, died Sept. 24, 2002.

**Michael W. Wagner, J.D. '54**, died Jan. 16, 2002.

**Josue S. Paco, J.D. '57**, died July 7, 2002.

**Bill M. White, J.D. '62**, died July 1, 2002.

**Ernest A. Guinn Jr., J.D. '69**, died June 22, 2002.

**Michael D. Wagner, J.D. '72**, died Sept. 10, 2002.

**Edwin W. Dubreil, J.D. '75**, died June 1, 2002.

**Frank S. Lopez, J.D. '84**, died Sept. 16, 2002.

**James Perrett, J.D. '88**, died Dec. 20, 2001.

**Sean P. Campbell, J.D. '99**, died Aug. 26, 2002.

**Paul J. Medelin, J.D. '00**, died July 10, 2002.



## Wilson Named Director of Career Services, Hartman adds Development Duties

Annette Wilson has been named director of Career Services at the law school, and Al Hartman (J.D. '73), director of Alumni Relations, has added the Office of Development to his duties.

Wilson, previously director of International Services at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, works with students in reaching their career objectives.

"We assist them in reaching the goals they want to achieve. That could be very different things from individual to individual," Wilson said.

Wilson urges students to be proactive in their career goals.

"We are here to assist students in planning their self-directed career paths. We try to help students define them, but they need to decide where they want to go. Our office is here to assist them to prepare for the job market, but our office doesn't get them a job. We make resources available for them to pursue," she said.

Before moving to San Antonio Wilson was



**Annette Wilson assists second-year student Hector Garza in the Student Resource Center in the Career Services Office.**

special assistant to the president and general counsel at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and assistant dean for administration at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, where she earned her law degree in 1980.

Hartman, director of Alumni Relations at the law school since 2001, has added the title of director of development. ■

# LawNotes

The St. Mary's University School of Law Newsletter

### President

Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D. (B.A. '62, M.A. '64)

### School of Law Dean

Robert William "Bill" Piatt Jr.

### Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

Vincent R. Johnson

### Associate Dean for Administration

Bonita Roberts

### Editor

Rob Leibold

### Contributors

Will Elliott, Karen Persyn

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Elsa Marie Garza

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San Antonio, Texas 78228-8602

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*LawNotes* is published twice a year by the St. Mary's University School of Law for alumni, friends and members of the community.

## What's new? Let us hear from you!

Changed jobs? Been promoted? Received an award? Moved lately? Help keep us and alumni up-to-date on your accomplishments. You also can submit your information via e-mail to rleibold@stmarytx.edu or fax (210) 431-4388. **Spring 2003**

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Employer/Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPOUSE INFORMATION

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse a St. Mary's graduate?: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

### CLASS NOTES INFORMATION

Please indicate any information, such as name of new firm, significant verdicts, publications, awards, etc.

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School of Law



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### **Completion of Legal Studies**

University President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D. (B.A. '62, M.A. '64), and School of Law Dean Bill Piatt (center), are surrounded by some of the 23 law school students who received their law degrees at the December graduation ceremony. The newest graduates of St. Mary's University School of Law are: Michael Adams, Carey Antwine, Rodolfo Canché, Maria E. Castillo, Mary Daily, Brett Ferguson, Ida Garcia, Cecilia Garza-Riojas, Michael Groomer, Paul Hable, David Hall, Bruce E. Houston, Markus Kolber, Keith Leuty, Julie Link, Diana Martinez, Frank Muñiz, Lydia Perkins, Ellen Pitluk, Aida Treviño, Paul Valis, Stephanie Wilke and Ron Zimmerman.